

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE COHORT STUDIES

Review: diabetes and chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN)

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection and Outcome categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability

Selection

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort
 - a) truly representative of the general population *
 - b) somewhat representative of the general population *
 - c) selected group of users eg nurses, volunteers
 - d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Selection of the non exposed cohort
 - a) drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort *
 - b) drawn from a different source
 - c) no description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort
- 3) Ascertainment of exposure
 - a) secure record (eg surgical records) *
 - b) structured interview *
 - c) written self report
 - d) no description
- 4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study (no CIPN at start of study)
 - a) yes *
 - b) no

Comparability

- 5) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis
 - a) study controls for cumulated dose of antineoplastic agents *
 - b) study controls for age, sex, type of antineoplastic agents, duration of treatment, race, type of cancer, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status, etc. *

Outcome

- 6) Assessment of outcome
 - a) independent blind assessment (eg. doctor's diagnosis, objective measurements) *
 - b) record linkage *
 - c) self report
 - d) no description
- 7) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur
 - a) yes (majority of population at least four cycles of treatment) *
 - b) no
- 8) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts
 - a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for *
 - b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost - > 80 %

follow up, or description provided of those lost, proving a non-selective loss to follow up *

c) follow up rate $< 80\%$ and no description of those lost, or a selective loss to follow up

d) no statement